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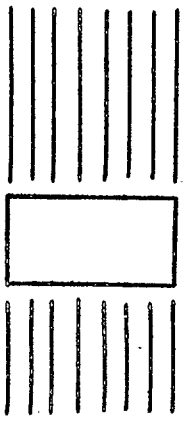

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Auth C/S., USAF

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TU-4 MEDIUM BOMBERS IN CHINA

The presence of TU-4 medium bombers in China has been reported by Chinese Nationalist sources and is evaluated by the D/I, USAF as probably true. Reports received from the Chinese Nationalists indicate the presence of 10 TU-4's at Shihchiachuang (38-05N, 114-28E), about 160 miles southwest of Peiping. Possible confirmation of this is the observation by F-86 pilots on 22 March of a TU-4 type aircraft at Takushan Airfield in Manchuria, about 45 miles ESE of Shuitju.

The introduction of TU-4's into the CCAF is considered a logical development on the part of the Soviets in providing the Chinese Communists with a more balanced air force. It is in continuation of the same policy that resulted in the introduction of IL-28's into the CCAF in October 1952.

The reported location of the TU-4's at Shihchiachuang is significant in that this is an area in which intensive flight training operations on jet and other type aircraft have been conducted by the CCAF.

When medium bombers become operational in the CCAF, the capability of the Chinese Communists for preemptive air action will be greatly enhanced. From bases known to be capable of supporting medium bomber operations, the TU-4's will be able to operate against targets in Southeast Asia and part of the Indian Subcontinent, as well as against sea lines of communication, ports and harbors facilities in Korea and Japan, and to undertake mining operations.

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Page 1 of 1 page

AI BRIEF 53-5
Page 1 of 1 page

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